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ABSTRACT

This book uses evidence gathered from legal, anecdotal, and survey-based sources to explore sexual harassment in K-12 schools. The text is divided into seven chapters. Chapters 1 and 2 use material from surveys, salient lawsuits, and students' stories to describe harassment and to elaborate on the contradictions and confusions that surround this term. Chapter 3 focuses on gender-based bullying and sexual harassment among children in elementary schools, and chapter 4 continues the discussion about confusion over words, especially the misuse of the term "sexual harassment" for sex discrimination. The relationship between the First Amendment rights of students and issues of gender are explored in chapter 5, which states that girls are afforded fewer expressive rights, often in the name of prevailing notions of sex-role-typical behaviors and expectations. Chapter 6 traces justice, and the miscarriage of justice, that occurs in the schoolhouse when administrators attempt to adjudicate sexual harassment disputes. The last chapter discusses the disturbing trend of the schools being the sites of increased sexual violence, and suggests directions for more research to determine to what extent sexual harassment is occurring between students who are or had been dating. A conclusion examines recommendations to reduce sexual harassment and sexual violence in schools. (Contains an index and approximately 300 references.) (RJM)

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